(a) whether Government are aware that fake doctors are operating in almost every part of the country particularly in the rural areas;

(b) whether it is a fact that fake doctors have recently been arrested in some parts of the country;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (d) Complaints of practice by unqualified medical practitioners are received from time to time. They are sent to the concerned authorities of the State Government/Union Territories for necessary action under the Law. As per information received from some State Governments, fake doctors are/have been prosecuted and convicted. To prevent practice by fake doctors, penal provisions exist under the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 for punishment with imprisonment for a term extending to one year or with fine extending to Rs. 1,000/- or with both.

Medical facilities for Cancer treatment

524. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state-

(a) whether it is a fact that there are nearly two million cancer patients in India;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction to the views of National Cancer Foundation that low priority is being given to cancer treatment;

(c) what are the reasons for small quantum of funds allocated for combating this disease;

(d) what are the plans for setting up better medical facilities for cancer treatment and its detection all over the country;

(e) what steps are being taken to encourage setting up of top class cancer treatment centres with a view to make such facilities available to people all over the country;

(f) whether it is a fact that Government have not encouraged bone marrow transplants in India; and

(g) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Reliable data regarding number of cancer patients in the country is not available. However, it is estimated that there are about 1.5 to 2 million cancer patients in India.

(b) and (c) Government has already started a National Cancer Control Programme to strengthen the diagnostic and treatment facilities for cancer. There are ten Regional Cancer Centres in the country which provide modern diagnostic and treatment facilities. As against the allocation of Rs. 20 crores during the 7th Five Year Plan, substantially increased allocation for the programme has been proposed during the 8th Five Year Plan. A provision of Rs. 18.79 crores has been made for the Programme during 1991-92.

(d) and (e) A scheme for development of Oncology Wings in selected Government Medical Colleges and hospitals and another scheme for district projects for health education and early detection of cancer have been introduced during 1990-91. Financial assistance is provided to the institutions/State Governments for the above purposes under the programme. The Central Government is also continuing to provide financial assistance to various State Govern-

ments/Institutions for setting up of Cobalt Therapy Units.

(f) and (g) Bone Marrow transplantation is a very costly and cumbersome process with low success rate. It is being undertaken in highly specialised institutions like Tata Memorial Hospital, Bombay.

Nursing Homes in Delhi

525. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Nursing Homes are mushrooming in all parts of the Capital without any set norms and regulations for maintenance of standards, especially in view of the fact that the law governing the setting up and running of Nursing Homes in Delhi is old and outdated;

(b) if so, when was the present law enacted;

(c) what are the reasons for not updating the law in this regard; and

(d) by when the same is liekly to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (d) There has been an increase in the opening of Nursing Homes in the Union Territory of Delhi. The Delhi Nursing Homes Registration Act was enacted in the year 1953 and rules thereunder were framed in the year 1966. As per the Delhi Nursing Homes Act and Rules, Nursing Homes are required to fulfil set norms and standards as laid down in the Act and Rules for registration. With a view to streamlining the working of Nursing Homes, there is a proposal to amend the Delhi Nursing Homes Registration Act, enhancing the penalty for non-registration. However, in the meunwhile to make the provisions of the Act more effective, the Delhi Nursing Homes Rules, 1966 have been amended and notified vide Delhi Nursing Homes Registration (Amendment) Rules, 1991 on 4-11-1991.

Medical and Dental Colleges in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra

526. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is mushroom growth of medical and dental colleges in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the colleges have been approved by the Medical Council as well as Dental Council; and

(c) if not, what steps are being taken to check the growth of such colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA):

(a) and (b) The Medical Council of India and the Dental Council of India have infromed that some medical colleges and dental colleges have been started in these States without the prior approval of the concerned Council and some of these colleges have not been approved as they do not fulll the minimum requirements laid down by these Councils.

(c) The report of the Joint Committee of the Parliament on the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill providing for prior permission of the Council for the establishment of new medical college is already before the Rajya Sabha and as soon